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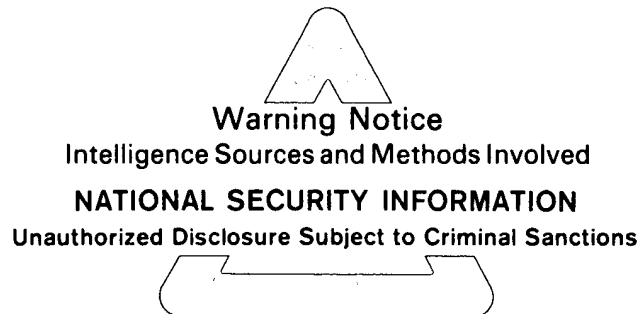
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CONTROL NO. Z-15792/82

NPIC/IEG (7/82)

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**DISSEMINATION CONTROL ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>NOFORN-</b>	Not Releasable to Foreign Nationals
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NPIC/IEG (7/82)

30 JULY 1982

**TEST PREPARATIONS FOR A NEW SMALL-SOLID ICBM**  
**PLESETSK ICBM LAUNCH TEST SITE 21, USSR**

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1. (S/D) **SIGNIFICANCE:** IDENTIFICATION OF A POSSIBLE ERECTOR AND A POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND AT PLESETSK ICBM LAUNCH TEST SITE (LTS) 21.

2. (S/D) **REMARKS:** [REDACTED] A POSSIBLE ERECTOR (GRAPHIC 1 INSET) WAS IN THE 48-METER FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE ON THE EAST PAD OF LTS 21. THE ERECTOR WAS APPROXIMATELY 20 METERS LONG AND THREE METERS WIDE AND MAY HAVE HAD A CRADLE-LIKE FRAMEWORK. ON [REDACTED] A POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND (GRAPHIC 1) WAS ON A RECENTLY CONSTRUCTED PROBABLE CONCRETE LAUNCH PAD WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE. IT WAS CENTERED ON THE LAUNCH PAD APPROXIMATELY 25 METERS FROM THE ENTRANCE OF THE STRUCTURE. THE POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND HAS A TRUNCATED-CONE SHAPE, A TOP DIAMETER OF APPROXIMATELY ONE METER, A BASE DIAMETER OF APPROXIMATELY THREE METERS, AND IS APPROXIMATELY [REDACTED] LTS 21 IS A DUAL-PAD SOFT LAUNCH SITE THAT SUPPORTED FLIGHT TESTING OF THE SS-X-15 AND SS-16. MODIFICATION/REFURBISHMENT OF LTS 21 FOR THE FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM OF A NEW SMALL-SIZE, SOLID-PROPELLANT (SMALL-SOLID) INTERCONTINENTAL BALLISTIC MISSILE (ICBM) BEGAN IN LATE 1980. IT HAS NOT BEEN DETERMINED WHETHER MISSILES TESTED FROM THIS POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND WOULD BE LAUNCHED TO THE KAMCHATKA IMPACT AREA OR WOULD BE LAUNCH PHASE (POP-UP) TESTS.

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(S/D) THE 48-METER FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE WAS BUILT IN 1972 TO CONCEAL SS-16 FLIGHT TEST ACTIVITIES. DURING THE SS-16 FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM, 24 METERS OF THIS STRUCTURE WAS NORMALLY COVERED BY EIGHT MOVABLE THREE-METER LONG ROOF SECTIONS WHILE THE REMAINDER OF THE STRUCTURE WAS CANVAS-COVERED. REANALYSIS OF LTS 21 SINCE THE TERMINATION OF THE SS-16 FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM IN APRIL 1976 REVEALED THAT A POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND AND POSSIBLE ERECTOR WERE IN THE 48-METER FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE. THIS LAUNCH STAND IS PROBABLY THE SAME STAND IDENTIFIED [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] ALTHOUGH THE LAUNCH STAND WAS PERIODICALLY SEEN NEAR THE ENTRANCE TO THE STRUCTURE, IT WAS NORMALLY POSITIONED APPROXIMATELY 21 METERS FROM THE ENTRANCE. HOWEVER, DUE TO THE

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EXTENSIVE CONCEALMENT MEASURES AT LTS 21, IT WAS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE IF THIS LAUNCH STAND AND ERECTOR WERE PRESENT DURING THE SS-16 FLIGHT TEST PROGRAM.

(S/D) BY OCTOBER 1980, NUMEROUS CRATES/CANVAS-COVERED PIECES OF EQUIPMENT (POE) WERE DELIVERED TO LTS 21. THE CONTENTS OF THE CRATES AND THE POE MAY HAVE BEEN COMPONENTS USED TO MODIFY/REFURBISH THE LAUNCH CONTROL BUNKERS. NO ACTIVITY WAS IDENTIFIED AT THE FRAMEWORK STRUCTURE UNTIL SEPTEMBER 1981, WHEN THE CANVAS WAS REMOVED FROM THE STRUCTURE. ALTHOUGH THE POSSIBLE ERECTOR WAS NOT PRESENT, THE POSSIBLE LAUNCH STAND REMAINED IN THE STRUCTURE AFTER THE CANVAS WAS REMOVED. THE ERECTOR WAS FIRST OBSERVED AT LTS 21 IN 1982 [REDACTED] WHEN IT WAS IN FRONT OF THE LAUNCH STAND IN THE OPEN SECTION OF THE STRUCTURE. CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW PROBABLE CONCRETE LAUNCH PAD BEGAN DURING EARLY JUNE AND WAS COMPLETED [REDACTED] WHILE THE CONCRETE LAUNCH PAD WAS UNDER CONSTRUCTION, THE LAUNCH STAND WAS NEAR THE ENTRANCE OF THE STRUCTURE. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] THE LAUNCH STAND WAS MOVED TO THE CENTER OF THE LAUNCH PAD. IN ADDITION, THREE OF THE EIGHT ROOF SECTIONS WERE REMOVED FROM THE REAR OF THE STRUCTURE LEAVING A 15-METER COVERED SECTION. [REDACTED]

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3. (S) [REDACTED] COORDINATES 62-58-23N 041-24-08E.

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